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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: April 12, 2011

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Garrison Power Plant tours offer updated exhibits to the public

Riverdale, N.D. – Have you ever wondered how the Garrison Dam was constructed, or how power is generated at the project? The Garrison Dam and Power Plant recently completed a project to renovate the exhibits and displays that help tell the story of the dam and Lake Sakakawea.

“We’re really excited about the new exhibits,” said Park Ranger Nathan Busche. “Even if you’ve visited the project in the past, the new displays are worth a return trip.”

A brand-new wall display tells the construction history of the United States’ fifth largest earthen dam. The display includes photos from when the project began in 1947, the embankment’s completion in 1953 and the subsequent construction of the intake, spillways, powerhouse, switchyard and other encompassing elements of the project.

Another new display helps to demonstrate how the project has produced power since 1956, as water enters the intake structure, passes through the system used to spin the generator and produce electricity.

Visitors can learn about the project’s operation and, with the help of another interactive display, learn about the lake, spillway and surge tanks.

The Garrison Dam Power Plant offers free scheduled tours year round. Tours include the displays in the power plant lobby, a tour of the generator floor, turbines and penstocks and release tunnels.

Beginning Memorial Day weekend, May 26, and continuing through Labor Day weekend, September 5, free walk-in tours are given on Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays at 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. To participate, visitors need to arrive 10 minutes before tours begin and meet at the Power Plant gate below the Garrison Dam. Visitors over 18 years old will be required to present a government ID such as a driver’s license or passport.

Security requirements prohibit visitors from carrying purses, cameras, diaper bags, pets, cell phones or other similar items.

Scheduled tours are available for schools, scouts, organizations and other large groups. Tours are limited to 50 people at a time. Groups of more than 25 people require advance scheduling for staffing purposes. Scheduled tours need to be coordinated at least two weeks in advance. To schedule tours, call Nathan Busche at (701) 654-7411 ext. 247.

The Garrison Dam and Power Plant is located in North Dakota 75 miles north of Bismarck and 60 miles south of Minot in Riverdale.

Additionally, Lake Sakakawea offers ideal conditions for outdoor recreation such as camping, fishing, hunting, boating, sailing, scuba diving, sightseeing and bird watching.

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